

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 272647

46

ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 PRS-01 /020 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:PDENNIS:JC

APPROVED BY PA/M:MHNOBLE

S/S- MR. LUERS

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

----- 042379

O 121756Z DEC 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 272647

TOSEC 99

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JOSEPH KRAFT COLUMN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, WASHPOST HEADLINED "THE FRENCH CONNECTION."
2. PARIS--VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING HAS GONE OUT ON A LIMB WITH HIS PROPOSAL FOR THE TRI-LATERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY. A LITTLE SAWING BY PRESIDENT FORD AT THE SUMMIT MEETING IN MARTINIQUE THIS WEEKEND COULD CAUSE THE FRENCH PRESIDENT A PAINFUL TUMBLE.
3. BUT IT IS PAST TIME TO INTRODUCE SOME GENEROSITY INTO FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE RIGHT AMERICAN MOVE IS TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE AND TO SEEK IN EXCHANGE A MORE COOPERATIVE FRENCH POSITION ON ENERGY PROBLEMS IN GENERAL AND ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN PARTICULAR.
4. M. GISCARD D'ESTAING'S PROPOSAL IS BASICALLY THAT THERE BE AN EARLY MEETING AMONG OIL PRODUCERS, THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH CONSUME OIL, AND THE UNDERDEVELOPED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 272647

OIL-CONSUMING NATIONS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CONFERENCE

WOULD TRY TO STABILIZE, AND MAYBE LOWER, THE PRICE OF OIL, ARRANGE FOR RECYCLING, OR REINVESTMENT, OF THE MASSIVE SUMS NOW BEING ACCUMULATED BY THE OIL PRODUCERS, AND TRY TO

LINK OIL PRICES TO THE PRICES OF OTHER COMMODITIES.

5. THE FIRST TROUBLE WITH THIS PROPOSAL IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PREPARATION AMONG THE DEVELOPED NATIONS. A PLAN PROPOSED BY DR. KISSINGER FOR JOINT ACTION IS JUST GETTING OFF THE GROUND. BUT THERE IS NO AGREEMENT ON THE RIGHT PRICE TO SEEK, OR HOW IT WOULD BE RELATED TO OTHER COMMODITIES, STILL LESS WHO WOULD BEAR THE RISKS OF FINANCING THE HUGE FLOW OF OIL MONIES. AT LEAST PART OF THE REASON FOR THE LACK OF PROGRESS IS THAT FRANCE, ALONE AMONG THE MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, HAS REFUSED TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY PROPOSED BY DR. KISSINGER.

6. A SECOND SET OF DIFFICULTIES RELATES TO THE POOREST COUNTRIES, SUCH AS INDIA, WHICH CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY FOR FOOD, LET ALONE MEET THEIR OIL BILLS. THE AMERICAN POSITION HAS BEEN THAT FINANCIAL HELP TO THESE COUNTRIES SHOULD COME FROM THE OIL PRODUCERS WITH THEIR TREMENDOUS NEW WEALTH. THE TRI-PARTITE CONFERENCE WOULD MAKE IT EASY FOR THE POOREST COUNTRIES TO DEMAND THAT THEIR BILLS BE PAID BY THE RICH OIL CONSUMERS--NOTABLY THE UNITED STATES AND WEST GERMANY--THROUGH THE DEVICE OF RECYCLING.

7. A THIRD SET OF TROUBLES RELATES TO THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. SOME OF THEM, AT LEAST, ARE DELIBERATELY TRYING TO USE THE OIL WEAPON TO WIN POLITICAL GAINS FOR THE

ARABS OVER ISRAEL AND FOR THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OVER THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THE OIL PRODUCERS MOST AGGRESSIVE IN THIS RESPECT ARE PRECISELY THE TWO WITH WHICH FRANCE IS MOST CLOSELY CONNECTED--ALGERIA AND IRAQ.

8. GIVEN ALL THESE DIFFICULTIES, IT HAS TO BE ASKED WHY THE FRENCH PRESIDENT EVEN BOTHERED TO MAKE THE PROPOSAL. THE ANSWER SEEMS TO BE THAT IT WAS A WAY OF ASSERTING FRENCH INFLUENCE--A MATTER OF SPECIAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 272647

HERE IN VIEW OF THE FEELING AMONG MANY OF THE PRESIDENT'S GAULLIST SUPPORTERS THAT HE WAS NOT FOLLOWING THE GENERAL'S LEAD IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

9. FOR AMERICANS IT IS TEMPTING, IN THESE CONDITIONS, TO REJECT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FLATLY, THUS EXPOSING THE VANITY OF GAULLIST PRETENSIONS. BUT M. GISCARD D'ESTAING IS GOING TO BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. WHILE HE

HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE FAR MORE GAULLIST IN FOREIGN POLICY THAN MANY OF HIS AMERICAN ADMIRERS PREDICTED, IT IS

STILL POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL TAKE HIS DISTANCES FROM SOME OF THE GENERAL'S MORE ANTI-AMERICAN POSITIONS. CERTAINLY A REBUFF FROM THE UNITED STATES AT THIS POINT WOULD ONLY MAKE THE FRENCH PRESIDENT MORE DEPENDENT ON THE GAULLISTS.

10. SO IT MAKES SENSE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, THUS HANDING M. GISCARD D'ESTAING A SORT OF INTERNATIONAL TRIUMPH FOR FRANCE. BUT IT ALSO MAKES SENSE FOR PRESIDENT FORD TO ASK TWO THINGS IN RETURN.

11. FIRST, FRANCE OUGHT TO START COOPERATING WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN PREPARING THE TRI-LATERAL CONFERENCE. THAT MEANS WORKING OUT--CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY--JOINT POSITIONS WHICH PREVENT THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES FROM IN EFFECT RAIDING THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND EUROPE.

12. SECOND, FRANCE OUGHT TO CUT OUT THE VAST INFLATION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AND YASSER ARAFAT WHICH HAS DONE SO MUCH DAMAGE TO DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDEAST. IN PARTICULAR, THE FRENCH OUGHT TO BE ASKED TO ASSERT THEIR UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF ISRAEL.

13. THE FRENCH PRESIDENT HAS RECENTLY BEEN TELLING VISITORS THAT HE IS DIFFERENT FROM GENERAL DE GAULLE IN NOT BEING SUBJECT TO A VISCERAL ANTI-AMERICANISM. MARTINIQUE OUGHT TO BE THE OCCASION WHERE THE UNITED STATES MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE GOOD ON THAT CLAIM. (END TEXT.)
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 272647

INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE272647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PDENNIS:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740361-0338
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741239/aaaabhmj.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005